

4/20/15

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Chapter No. 460
15/SS26/R299SG
LR 1 TAB/LR

SENATE BILL NO. 2107

Originated in Senate Ling Welch Secretary

SENATE BILL NO. 2107

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-6-171, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY THE STATUTE REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING OFFICES AND STATE AGENCIES TO USE CERTAIN "PERSON FIRST" REFERENCES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. Section 43-6-171, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

43-6-171. (1) The Legislature recognizes that language used in reference to individuals with disabilities shapes and reflects society's attitudes towards people with disabilities. Many of the terms currently used diminish the humanity and natural condition of having a disability. Certain terms are demeaning and create an invisible barrier to inclusion as equal community members. The Legislature finds it necessary to clarify preferred language for new and revised laws and rules by requiring the use of terminology that puts the person before the disability.

(2) The legislative drafting offices of the House and Senate are directed to avoid all references to the terms "disabled,"

"developmentally disabled," "mentally disabled," "mentally ill," "mentally retarded," "handicapped," "cripple" and "crippled," in any new statute, memorial or resolution, and to change those references in any existing statute, memorial or resolution as sections including those references are otherwise amended by law. The drafting offices are directed to replace the terms referenced above as appropriate with the following revised terminology:

" * * * persons with disabilities," " * * * persons with developmental disabilities," " * * * persons with mental illness" and " * * * persons with intellectual or cognitive disabilities."

(3) No statute, memorial or resolution is invalid because it does not comply with this section.

(4) All state agency orders creating new rules, or amending existing rules, shall be formulated in accordance with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section regarding the use of respectful language.

(5) No agency rule is invalid because it does not comply with this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after July 1, 2015.

PASSED BY THE SENATE
March 31, 2015



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 31, 2015



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR



GOVERNOR

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